

Introduction to Global Music

The [Center for European Studies](#) (CES) and other Area Studies Centers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are collaborating with the student-run radio station [WXYC](#) in the production of the [Global Music Show](#).

This monthly hour-long program features music from a particular area of the world combined with commentary by guest scholars, who discuss the music played in the context of the culture and history of the region that produced it.

To support cultural learning, CES has created student listening guides, pre- and post-listening discussion questions, and resource links for each of their Global Music programs. The programs run about one hour, and so listening and discussion would work well for block schedule classes. If your class runs the traditional hour length, you can have the class listen over two periods, and then discuss. Alternatively, you can assign the listening for homework, and hold the discussion during class time.

Music can teach us much about a culture that never appears in a textbook. Use these programs and teaching resources to connect your students with European cultures in a dynamic, new way. Encourage students to continue their exploration of Europe through music.

Irish Stew

Professor Nicholas Allen and Reece McGowen

Pre-Listening Questions

Ask students to think about these questions before you listen to the program. Write their answers on the board.

1. You're going to hear some Irish music. Make some predictions. What instruments do you expect to hear? What kind of songs will you be listening to? What will the songs be about?
2. The title of this program is "Irish Stew." Think about the title, and what images it creates for you. Why do you think the producer chose this title for a music program?

Name _____

Read these questions before you start listening to “Irish Stew.” As you listen, write down your answers to the questions.

Irish Stew Nicholas Allen and Reece McGowen

Playlist:

1. The Dubliners, excerpt from “The Irish Rover”
2. The Dubliners, “The Rising of the Moon”
3. The Chieftains, from “The Sessions”
4. The Chieftains and Van Morrison, “I’ll Tell Me Ma”
5. Van Morrison, “Baby, Please Don’t Go”
6. Rory Gallagher, “Bought and Sold”
7. U2 “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For”
8. The Pogues “And the Band Played ‘Waltzing Matilda’”
9. The Undertones, “Teenage Kicks”
10. Stiff Little Fingers, “Suspect Device”
11. The Dubliners, “Molly Vaughn”
12. Alton, “Repeal of the Union”

Listening Guide

1. The first musical piece is “The Irish Rover,” a song about an imaginary ship carrying Irish immigrants to New York. How would you describe the music you’re hearing? Solemn? Exciting? What feeling about immigration does this music express?
2. What political event does “The Rising of the Moon” refer to? How does the singer view this event?
3. Nicholas Allen discusses the “participatory nature” of Irish music in performance. How might the audience participate in the singing of “The Rising of the Moon”?
4. What kind of Irish music do the Chieftains perform? What instruments do you hear?
5. When did the Irish begin collecting and preserving folk songs?
6. Van Morrison joins the Chieftains for “I’ll Tell Me Ma,” a Belfast street ballad. For the ending the Chieftains play “The Sash.” Why is this surprising?

7. When and how did jazz come from the United States to Ireland?
8. What instruments do you hear in “Baby, Please Don’t Go” and “Bought and Sold”?
9. U2’s “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For” was a worldwide hit. Is it still Irish music?
10. What country is associated with “And the Band Played ‘Waltzing Matilda’”? What war is the main character wounded in?
11. Nicholas Allen explains that “Teenage Kicks” and “Suspect Device” are two musical reactions to the particular time in which they were written. What time was this? What was happening in Ireland?

Post-Listening Discussion

After the class has listened to “Irish Stew,” use these questions as springboards for discussion of Irish culture and history.

1. Look back on your predictions of what you would hear in the program. What surprised you about the Irish music you heard?
2. Why do you think the producer called the program “Irish Stew”? If you had to come up with another name, what would it be?
3. “The Rising of the Moon” describes an attack on the British during the Rebellion of 1798. But the song was written in 1867, during another Irish uprising, the Fenian Rebellion. Why do you think the writer chose to celebrate the Rebellion of 1798?
4. Why do you think the Chieftains have singers from other musical genres join them? What other singers would you suggest they collaborate with?
5. During the Rebellion, many Irish refused to support England’s part in the First World War and condemned those who enlisted in the army. Why do you think that an Irish band would be interested in performing the song “And the Band Played ‘Waltzing Matilda’,” a song about a battle during that war?
6. Nicholas Allen says that “Molly Vaughn” would be “too melancholy” for North Carolina. Do you agree? Which of these songs do you think would be especially popular with North Carolina audiences? Why?

Activities:

1. Choose four to six songs from the program for a CD compilation. Give the CD a title and write either a short description of each song you choose or a one page essay on Irish music for the album notes.
2. Look at the “Irish Stew” poster on the WXYC site. Create your own original poster to advertise “Irish Stew.”
3. Continue learning about Irish music and culture by exploring these sites:

Background on Ireland on EUROPA site

http://europa.eu/abc/european_countries/eu_members/ireland/index_en.htm

The Rebellion of 1798

Lyrics to “The Rising of the Moon”

http://www.thebards.net/music/lyrics/Rising_Of_The_Moon.shtml

“The Rising of the Moon,” sung by the Clancy Brothers

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CsEfbRwaaQ&feature=related>

BBC British History in Depth: The Rebellion of 1798

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire_seapower/irish_reb_01.shtml

Primary sources on the Rebellion of 1798 from the Irish Archives

<http://www.nationalarchives.ie/PDF/1798.pdf>

Irish Folk Instruments

Information about the instruments played by the Chieftains

<http://www.thechieftains.com/instruments/>

Tin whistle lessons

<http://www.youtube.com/user/RyanDunsSJ>

The Troubles: the Sixties through the Eighties

BBC British History in Depth: Northern Ireland: the Troubles

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/recent/troubles/the_troubles_article_01.shtml

Gallipoli

First-person account of the Battle of Gallipoli

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/gallipoli.htm>